

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 5, 9, 32, and 35 as follows. Please cancel claims 7 and 34. Please add new claims 36-43. The claims and their status are shown below.

1. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene, having:

- i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel, or
- ii) a fragment within i),

wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes transcription and tissue-specific expression of the murine villin gene.

2. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is the sequence extending 5.5 kb upstream and 3.5 kb downstream from the transcription initiation site of the murine villin gene.

3. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is the sequence identified as Seq ID NO:1.

4. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide fragment extending from the HS I to the HS IV Dnase I-hypersensitive sites.

5. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive site to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene.

6. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 upstream from the transcription initiation site, to the translation initiation site.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence, to the translation initiation site.

9. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is the sequence extending from the translation initiation site of said murine villin gene upstream to a sequence that is 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site of said murine villin gene

~~to the translation initiation site~~, provided the region corresponding to intron 1, located between said sites, is deleted or deleted in part.

10. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is mutated by deletion of one or several nucleotides, within the nucleotide fragment of 5.5 kb corresponding to intron 1 extending from position 47 starting from the transcription initiation site, provided that said mutation does not affect the presence of the HS II Dnase I-hypersensitive site.

11. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises nucleotide regions having a regulatory activity affecting the level of expression of the murine villin gene.

12. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is obtained from the nucleotide sequence of the murine villin gene having a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and extending 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site and 5.5 kb downstream from said site, or a fragment thereof, said nucleotide sequence or fragment thereof having a regulatory activity on the level of expression of the murine villin gene in intestine cells and/or in transgenic mice.

13-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene having

i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and is the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:1;
or

ii) a fragment of i), wherein said fragment is selected from the group consisting of

(a) a nucleotide fragment extending from the translation initiation site of said murine villin gene upstream to a sequence that is 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site of said murine villin gene ~~to the translation initiation site~~, provided the region corresponding to intron 1 located between said sites is deleted;

(b) a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS I to the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive sites;

(c) a nucleotide fragment extending from ~~the HS I to~~ the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive site downstream to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene;

(d) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 from the transcription initiation site to the translation initiation site; and

(e) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence to the translation initiation site;

wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having cis-regulatory activity that promote the transcription of the murine villin gene.

33. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene which is the sequence extending 5.5 kb upstream and 3.5 kb downstream from the transcription initiation site of the murine villin gene.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 32, obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin having

i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and is the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:1; or

ii) a fragment of i), wherein said fragment is selected from the group of:

(a) a nucleotide fragment extending from the translation initiation site of said murine villin gene upstream to a sequence that is 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site of said murine villin gene, provided the region corresponding to intron 1 is located between said sites is deleted;

(b) a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS I to the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive sites;

(c) a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive site downstream to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene;

(d) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 upstream from the transcription initiation site, to the translation initiation site; and

(e) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence, to the translation initiation site;

wherein said isolated nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes the transcription of the murine villin gene and [[which]] comprises nucleotide regions having a regulatory activity affecting the level of expression of the murine villin gene.

36. (New) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene, having:

- i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and is the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:1; or
- ii) a fragment within i), wherein said isolated nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes the transcription and tissue-specific expression of the murine villin gene.

37. (New) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 upstream from the transcription initiation site, to the translation initiation site.

38. (New) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence, to the translation initiation site.

39. (New) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which is the sequence extending from the translation initiation site of said murine villin gene upstream to a sequence that is 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site of said murine villin gene, provide the region corresponding to intron 1, located between said sites is deleted.

40. (New) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which is mutated by deletion of one or several nucleotides, within the nucleotide fragment of 5.5 kb corresponding to intron 1 extending from position 47 starting from the transcription initiation site, provided that the mutation does not affect the presence of the HS II Dnase I-hypersensitive site.

41. (New) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which comprises nucleotide regions having a regulatory activity affecting the level of expression of the murine villin gene.

42. (New) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene having:

- i) a nucleotide fragment extending from an HS I hypersensitive site downstream to an HS IV Dnase I-hypersensitive site; or

43. (New) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene having;

i) a nucleotide fragment extending from an HS IV Dnase I-hypersensitive site downstream to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene; or

ii) a fragment within i), wherein said isolated nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes the transcription and tissue-specific expression of the murine villin gene.